

REMARKS

The Office action mailed 12 September 2008, has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Restriction Requirement

In the Office action mailed 12 September 2008, the Examiner required a restriction as follows:

- Invention 1 Claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 27, drawn an isolated polynucleotide, vector comprising said polynucleotide, a host cell transformed with said polynucleotide.
- Invention 2 Claim 3, 4, and 28, drawn to a polypeptide.
- Invention 3 Claim 5, drawn to a probe or primer.
- Invention 4 Claims 9-26, drawn a process for the enzymatic preparation of amides from nitriles.

The Examiner deemed that the claims of Inventions 1 through 4 do not relate to a single inventive concept.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Invention 4 (claims 9-26), without traverse.

Election of Species

The Examiner also required an election of species as follows:

SEQ ID NOs:1-10.

Applicants hereby elect SEQ ID NO:1 as the specie. At least claims 9 and 11-26 are generic and claim 10 reads thereon.

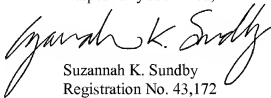
Applicants also reserve the right to pursue any claims canceled as a result of this Restriction and Election of Species Requirement in a continuing application without prejudice or disclaimer.

CONCLUSION

This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed. The right to file one or more divisional applications to the non-elected groups is respectfully reserved. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our **Deposit Account No. 02-4300**, Attorney Docket No. **032301.465**.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzannah K. Sundby
Registration No. 43,172

Date: 29 September 2008
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP
1130 Connecticut Ave., NW, #1130
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 263-4332
Fax: (202) 263-4352
ssundby@sgrlaw.com